

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled) A child harness comprising:

a crotch support coupled to a frame, the crotch support adapted to provide a seat for a child and distribute the child's weight to the frame; and

an active restraint coupled to the frame and responsive to the movement of the child secured therein, the active restraint including a leg strap adapted to engage a leg of the child and a shoulder strap adapted to engage a shoulder of the child;

wherein the leg strap is operatively coupled to the shoulder strap; and

wherein movement of one of the legs or shoulders of the child to engage the leg strap or shoulder strap restraining that portion of the child's body operates to increase tension on the corresponding shoulder strap or leg strap on the same side of the child's body.

2. (Currently Amended) The child harness of claim 4 6, wherein the leg strap and the shoulder strap comprise a single strap.

3. (Cancelled) The child harness of claim 1, wherein the shoulder strap is slidably mounted to a rear face operatively coupled to the frame.

4. (Cancelled) The child harness of claim 1, wherein a front face of the frame includes a loop through which the active restraint passes to mount the active restraint to the front face.

5. (Cancelled) The child harness of claim 1, wherein a rear face of the frame includes a loop to which the shoulder strap is slidably mounted thereto.

6. (Currently Amended) The A child harness of claim 5, wherein comprising:

a crotch support coupled to a frame, the crotch support adapted to provide a seat for a child and distribute the child's weight to the frame; and

an active restraint coupled to the frame and responsive to the movement of the child secured therein, the active restraint including a leg strap adapted to engage a leg of the child and a shoulder strap adapted to engage a shoulder of the child;

wherein the leg strap is operatively coupled to the shoulder strap; and
wherein movement of one of the legs or shoulders of the child to engage the leg strap or
shoulder strap restraining that portion of the child's body operates to increase tension on the
corresponding shoulder strap or leg strap on the same side of the child's body;

wherein a rear face of the frame includes a loop to which the shoulder strap is slidably
mounted thereto;

wherein the loop includes a first portion of a quick-connect slidably mounted thereto;

wherein the shoulder strap includes a second portion of the quick connect; and

wherein the first portion and the second portion are adapted to be coupled together to
couple the loop to the shoulder strap.

7. (Currently Amended) The child harness of claim + 6, wherein the active restraint is
adjustable in length.

8. (Cancelled) The child harness of claim 1, wherein at least one of the leg strap and the
shoulder strap are coupled to a quick-connect.

9. (Cancelled) The child harness of claim 8, wherein the quick-connect includes a buckle
providing adjustability to a length of the active restraint.

10. (Cancelled) The child harness of claim 1, wherein the active restraint includes at least a pair
of straps, each strap including a leg strap and a shoulder strap.

11. (Currently Amended) The child harness of claim + 6, wherein the crotch support is coupled
to a front face and a rear face operatively coupled to the frame.

12. (Currently Amended) The child harness of claim + 6, wherein a front face of the frame
includes a conduit having at least one of the leg strap and the shoulder strap of the active restraint
passing therethrough for coupling the active restraint to the front face of the frame.

13. (Currently Amended) The child harness of claim + 6, wherein:

the active restraint includes a left side leg strap coupled to a left side shoulder strap;
the active restraint includes a right side leg strap coupled to a right side shoulder strap;
the left side leg strap is independent from the right side leg strap; and
the right side shoulder strap is independent from the left side shoulder strap.

14. (Currently Amended) The child harness of claim ~~4~~ 6, wherein the shoulder strap includes a shoulder pad slidably mounted thereto adapted to pad the shoulder of the child.

15. (Currently Amended) The child harness of claim ~~4~~ 6, wherein the frame is coupled to a backpack adapted to be worn by a wearer.

16. (Original) The child harness of claim 15, wherein the backpack includes at least one shoulder strap and a waist strap adapted to attach the backpack to the wearer.

17. (Original) The child harness of claim 15, wherein the backpack includes a retractable brace adapted to stand the backpack upright and support the child seated on the crotch support when the wearer does not don the backpack.

18. (Currently Amended) The child harness of claim ~~4~~ 6, wherein:

the frame includes a front face, a rear face, a right side face spanning between the front face and the rear face, and a left side face spanning between the front face and the rear face;

the crotch support and the right face at least partially define a right side orifice adapted to receive a right leg of the child; and

the crotch support and the left side face at least partially define a left side orifice adapted to receive a left leg of the child.

19. (Currently Amended) The child harness of claim ~~4~~ 6, further comprising side supports spanning between a front face and a rear face of the frame that are adapted to limit a range of movement in a lateral direction of the child.

20. (Cancelled) The child harness of claim 1, further comprising a head pad integrated into a rear face of the frame.

21. (Currently Amended) The child harness of claim ~~4~~ 6, wherein a rear aspect of the crotch support is coupled to a rear face of the frame and a front aspect of the crotch support is pivotally coupled to the frame.

22. (Cancelled) A backpack carrier comprising:

a cockpit adapted to house a child therein comprising:

a child seat operatively coupled to the cockpit and distributing a majority of the child's weight to a frame,

a first active restraint slidably coupled to a back support operatively coupled to the frame, at least a portion of the first active restraint is adapted to overlie a first shoulder of the child, and

a second active restraint slidably coupled to the back support operatively coupled to the frame, at least a portion of the second active restraint is adapted to overlie a second shoulder of the child,

wherein the first active restraint and the second active restraint are slidably repositionable after the child is restrained within the cockpit to automatically accommodate an increased range of movement; and

a harness to be donned by a user coupled to the frame for carrying the cockpit.

23. (Cancelled) The backpack carrier of claim 22, wherein:

the first active restraint is adapted to concurrently overlie the first shoulder of the child and a first leg of the child; and

the second active restraint is adapted to concurrently overlie the second shoulder of the child and a second leg of the child.

24. (Cancelled) The backpack carrier of claim 23, wherein at least one of the first active restraint and the second active restraint includes a quick-connect.

25. (Cancelled) The backpack carrier of claim 24, wherein the quick-connect is mounted in series with a buckle operative to manipulate the length of one of the first active restraint and the second active restraint.
26. (Cancelled) The backpack carrier of claim 23, wherein the first active restraint and the second active restraint are coupled to the front of the cockpit.
27. (Cancelled) The backpack carrier of claim 22, wherein the child seat is pivotally mounted to the cockpit.
28. (Cancelled) The backpack carrier of claim 22, wherein the cockpit is adapted to panoramically surround the child.
29. (Cancelled) The backpack carrier of claim 23, wherein:
 - the first active restraint is reactive to upward movement of the first leg of the child by limiting concurrent upward movement of the first shoulder of the child;
 - the second active restraint is reactive to upward movement of the second leg of the child by limiting concurrent upward movement of the second shoulder of the child;
 - the first active restraint is reactive to upward movement of the first shoulder of the child by limiting concurrent upward movement of the first leg of the child; and
 - the second active restraint is reactive to upward movement of the second shoulder of the child by limiting concurrent upward movement of the second leg of the child.
30. (Cancelled) A method of fastening a child within a child restraint, the method comprising the steps of:
 - positioning a child upon a seat coupled to a frame such that a left leg of the child is overlaid by a first leg strap and a right leg of the child is overlaid by a second leg strap;
 - positioning a first shoulder strap over a left shoulder of the child;
 - positioning a second shoulder strap over a right shoulder of the child;
 - tensioning the first shoulder strap and the second shoulder strap to secure the child to the frame and between the first shoulder strap and the second shoulder strap and the seat; and

coupling the first shoulder strap to the first leg strap and coupling the second shoulder strap to the second leg strap to provide at least two responsive straps;

wherein the first shoulder strap and second shoulder strap are slidably mounted to the frame; and

wherein movement of the child after the tensioning step will be limited, but accommodated, by alternating tension between the first shoulder strap and the first leg strap and by alternating tension between the second shoulder strap and the second leg strap.

31. (Cancelled) The method of claim 30, wherein at least one of the first shoulder strap, the second shoulder strap, the first leg strap, and the second leg strap include a quick-coupling having a buckle for varying a length of the strap.

32. (Cancelled) The method of claim 30, wherein the first shoulder strap and the second shoulder strap are slidably mounted to a loop operatively coupled to the frame.